# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004
CHARGES OF CELLULAR TELEPHONE OPERATORS
Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Rana Shri Kashi Ram

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) The amount charged by Cellular Telephone Operators for per call in the country;

(b) the manner in which these call charges are competitive in comparison to international current rates;

(c) whether the Government has set any ceilling for call charges before awarding licences in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b)The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 provides flexibility to cellular telephone operators to fix tariffs. The operators are offering various tariff plans for their subscribers and these plans vary in terms of combination of monthly rentals, call charges & free call allowances etc. International comparison of tariff for telecom services and pulse rate of such services is rendered difficult and may not be realistic because of many tariff packages, varying exchange rates, differences in purchasing power and tele-densities across countries. However, telecom tariff in India in general is considered to be on the lower side internationally.

(c) The existing licence under which the cellular operators are providing service does not set any ceiling for call charge.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above..